A LETTER ON
KUFR BIT-TAGHUT

أهل التوحيد
Publications

Shaykh al-Mujaddid
Muhammad ibn 'Abdil-Wahhab

With Supplementary Notes from Various Scholars | Published on the ‘Id al-Fitr, 1439

Ahlut-Tawhid Publications

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Know, may Allah have mercy upon you, that the first thing Allah obligated upon the son of Adam is *kufr bit-taghut* and *iman* in Allah.[1] The proof is His (*ta'ala*) statement:

"And verily, We sent to every *ummah* a messenger [saying]: worship Allah [alone] and stay away from the *taghut*."[2]

[1] Shaykh Sulayman Al ash-Shaykh said, "Because the meaning of *la ilaha illallah*… is that worship belongs to none except to Allah, that one believes nothing can bring harm or good except Allah, that one disbelieves in what is worshipped from those besides Allah, and to disown them and those who worship them" (*Taysir*).

[2] Imam at-Tabari said, "He (*ta'ala thikrahu*) mentions that, 'Verily, We sent, oh mankind, in every *ummah* that preceded before you a messenger like We have sent you [saying]: worship Allah alone and do not commit *shirk* with Him; to single Him out with obedience and make your worship purely and sincerely for Him… and to stay far away from Shaytan, being careful that he tempts you and prevents you from the path of Allah'" (*Tafsir at-Tabari*). And ash-Shanqiti said, "The Majestic and Most High mentioned in this noble *ayah* that He sent to every nation a messenger calling to single out Allah alone in worship and to avoid worshipping anything else; and this is the meaning of *la ilaha illallah*" (*Adwa al-Bayan*).

As for the description of *kufr bit-taghut*, then it is to believe in the invalidity of worship to other than Allah, to abandon it, to hate it, to declare the *kufr* of its people, and to have animosity towards them.[3]

As for the meaning of *iman* in Allah, it is to believe that Allah is the worshiped God alone, without anything else; to purify all types of worship for Allah and to negate it from anything else that is worshiped; to love the people of *ikhlas* and to ally with them; and to hate the people of *shirk* and to have animosity towards them.[4]

[3] Shaykh al-Mujaddid Muhammad ibn 'Abdil-Wahhab said elsewhere, "Rather, the *Din* of Islam will not be complete except with *bara'ah* from those *tawaghit* who are worshiped besides Allah and making *takfir* of them; just as He (*ta'ala*) said, 'So whoever disbelieves in the *taghut* and believes in Allah has grasped the most firm handhold'" (*Ad-Durar*). And some of the Aimmah ad-Da'wah an-Najdiyyah said, "Indeed, those who do not make *takfir* of the *mushrikin* have not affirmed [belief in] the Quran. For verily, the Quran has made *takfir* of the *mushrikin* and has ordered to make *takfir* of them, to take them as enemies, and to fight them" (*Ad-Durar*).

[4] Shaykh Sulayman Al ash-Shaykh said, "He made it obligatory to love the believers and to take them as allies. He made this a condition of *iman*, just as He negated the *iman* of whoever shows love to 'whoever opposes Allah and His messenger, even if they were their fathers, sons, brothers, or tribesmen'" (*Ad-Durar*).

This is Millah Ibrahim, which only the fool would rebel against. It is the best example in which Allah has informed us about with His saying:

"Indeed there has been an excellent example for you in Ibrahim and those with him, when they said to their people: 'Verily, we are free from you and whatever you worship besides Allah, we have rejected you, and there has appeared between us and you, animosity and hatred forever, until you believe in Allah alone."[5]

The *taghut*: it is encompassing for anything that is worshiped besides Allah. Therefore, anyone that is

[5] Imam at-Tabari said, "When they said to their people, those who disbelieve in Allah and worship the *taghut*: 'Oh people, indeed we are free from you and from that which you worship besides Allah from the false objects of worship and the rivals you set up… We reject what you are upon of disbelief in Allah and we renounce your worship that is done to other than Allah without any right. Between us and you there has appeared enmity forever because of your disbelief in Allah and your worship of others besides Him; there is no reconciliation and no leniency until you believe in Allah alone.' In other words saying: 'Until you believe in Allah alone, His *tawhid*, and single Him out in your worship'" (*Tafsir at-Tabari*). And ash-Shanqiti said in this *ayah* three matters are mentioned, "Firstly, to renounce them and that which they worship besides Allah. Secondly, disbelief in them. Thirdly, expressing enmity and hatred; declaring it and making it apparent without end until they believe in Allah alone" (*Adwa al-Bayan*).

worshiped besides Allah while pleased with being worshiped - whether it is something worshiped, someone followed, or someone obeyed in the absence of obedience to Allah and His messenger, then he/it is a *taghut*.[6]

And the *tawaghit* are many, and their heads are five:

The first: Shaytan[7] - the one who calls to the worship of others besides Allah. And the evidence is His (*ta'ala*) saying:

[6] Al-'Allamah ibnul-Qayyim said, "*Taghut* is anything by which the slave transgresses the limits through worship, following, or obedience. Thus the *taghut* of any people is he whom they seek judgment from other than Allah and His messenger, or whom they worship alongside Allah, or whom they follow without guidance from Allah, or whom they obey in what they do not know to be in obedience to Allah. These are the *tawaghit* of the world; if you were to contemplate them and, at the same time, contemplate the condition of the people, you would see that most people have turned from the worship of Allah to the worship of the *taghut*, from seeking judgment from Allah and His messenger to seeking judgment from the *taghut*, and from obeying and following Allah and His messenger, to obeying and following the *taghut*" (*I'lam al-Muwaqqi'in*).

[7] Imam at-Tabari in his *tafsir* of the *ayah* said, "The people of *tawil* (i.e., *tafsir*) differ in regards to the meaning of '*taghut*', and some said it is Shaytan."

"Did I not ordain for you, O Children of Adam, that you should not worship Shaytan? Verily, he is a plain enemy to you."

2. The second: The tyrant ruler who substitutes the rulings of Allah (ta'ala). And the evidence is His (*ta'ala*) saying:

"Have you not seen those who claim that they believe in that which has been sent down to you, and that which was sent down before you, and they wish to go for judgement [in their disputes] to the *taghut* while they have been ordered to disbelieve in it. And Shaytan wishes to lead them far astray."[8]

3. The third: The one who rules by other than what Allah has revealed. And the evidence is His (*ta'ala*) saying:

[8] Shaykh Muhammad ibn Ibrahim said in *Risalah Tahkim al-Qawanin*, "We can see from this the obstinate rejection of the upholders of man-made laws and their desire for that which is contrary to what Allah wants in this respect. As what is required of them and what has been prescribed as part of worship is disbelief in and rejection of the *taghut*." And Shaykh Sulayman Al ash-Shaykh said in *Taysir al-'Aziz al-Hamid*, "Whoever bears witness that *la ilaha illallah* then turns to judgment from other than the Messenger as a source in conflicts, he undoubtedly lies in his testimony."

"Whoever does not judge by what Allah revealed, such are the *kafirun*."[9]

4. The forth: The one who claims that he has knowledge of the *ghayb* (unseen) besides Allah. And the evidence is His (ta'ala) saying:

"[He Alone] the All-Knower of the *ghayb*, and He reveals to none His *ghayb*. Except to a messenger [from mankind] whom He has chosen, and then He makes a band of watching guards (i.e., angels) to march before him and behind him."

And He (*ta'ala*) said:

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[9] Shaykh Muhammad Hamid al-Fiqi said in his verification of *Fath al-Majid*, "Included in this without any doubt: judging and ruling by man-made laws that are foreign to Islam and its Shari'ah in all different matters that man has placed to judge in such cases of blood, honor, and wealth. Ruling and judging by these laws is the abolishment of the laws of Allah; from establishing the *hudud*, forbidding *riba*, *khamr*, and others which are allowed in these laws and protected by laws that facilitate its spreading and implementation. Thus these laws are a *taghut* and those who legislate and spread them are also *tawaghit*. This ruling includes all the likes of laws in every book that is man-made as these books divert the people from the truth that the Prophet (*sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) came with; whether on purpose or not, he/it is a *taghut*."

"And with Him are the keys of the *ghayb*, none knows them but He. And He knows whatever there is in the earth and in the sea; not a leaf falls, but He knows it. There is not a grain in the darkness of the earth nor anything fresh or dry, but is written in a clear record."

5. The fifth: The one who is worshipped instead of Allah, and he is pleased with being worshipped. And the evidence is His (*ta'ala*) saying:

"And if any of them should say: 'Verily, I am an *ilah* besides Him,' such a one We will recompense with Jahannam. Thus We recompense the *dhalimin*."

Know, that a person will not become a believer in Allah except with *kufr bit-taghut*.[10]

And the evidence is His (*ta'ala*) saying:

[10] Shaykh al-Mujaddid Muhammad ibn 'Abdil-Wahhab said in the first chapter of *Kitab at-Tawhid*, "The Seventh Matter: An issue of great importance in that the worship of Allah will not be obtained except with *kufr bit-taghut*."

"There is no compulsion in the *Din*. Verily, *ar-rushd* (the right path) has become distinct from *al-ghay* (the wrong path). So whoever rejects the *taghut* and believes in Allah, then he has grasped *al-'urwah al-wuthqa* (the most firm handhold). And He is the All-Hearer, the All-Knower."[11]

Ar-Rushd is the *Din* of Muhammad (*sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*); and *al-ghay* is the *din* of Abu Jahl; and *al-'urwah al-wuthqa* is the testimony that *la ilaha illallah* – which includes negation and affirmation. It nullifies all types of *'ibadah* (worship) to other than Allah (*ta'ala*) and affirms all the types of *'ibadah* for Allah alone, who has no partners.

[11] Shaykh 'Abdur-Rahman ibn Hasan said, "The ayah is proof that the slave can not grasp *la ilaha illallah* except with *kufr bit-taghut*. And it is the firm handhold that will never break. Therefore, whoever does not believe in this is not a Muslim because he did not grasp hold of *la ilaha illallah*. So ponder and believe in what will save you from the punishment of Allah, and it is to actualize and realize the meaning of *la ilaha illallah*; for it is negation and affirmation" (*Ad-Durar*). And Shaykh Sulayman ibn Sahman said, "He (*ta'ala*) clarified that the one who grasps the firm handhold is he who disbelieves in the *taghut*, and *kufr* in it was brought before *iman* in Allah, because someone can claim that he believes in Allah but he does not avoid the *taghut*, and thus his claim is a lie" (*Ad-Durar*).


ليس العيد لمن لبس الجديد
'ID IS NOT FOR THOSE WHO WEAR NEW [CLOTHES]
إنما العيد لمن كفر بالشرك والتنديد
'ID IS FOR WHOEVER DISBELIEVES IN SHIRK AND THE RIVALS [TO ALLAH]
SHAYKH ABU MUS'AB AZ-ZARQAWI
رحمه الله
RAMADAN 1439 H
BAQIYAH